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L E T T E R

FROM

The Earl of *ESSEX* to His

Highnesse Prince R U P E R T, con-  
cerning the putting to death of  
Souldiers come out of *Ireland*  
taken Prisoners,

WITH

His Highnesse Answer  
thereunto.



BRISTOLL,

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lent Majesty: M DC. XLV.

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LETTER

FROM

The Earl of Essex to Sir

Highness Prince Rupert, con-

cerning the paying to death of

Souldiers some out of order

taken prisoners

WITH

Mrs. Highness Answer

London

8911-70



PRINTED

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A Letter from the Earl of *Essex*, to his  
Highnesse Prince *Rupert*.

SIR,

**T**He two Houses of Parliament have received Information, That beeaufe the Committee at *Shrewsbury* caused thirteen Irish Rebels taken in Hostility against the Parliament to suffer death, according to an Ordinance of Parliament herewith sent; therefore by your expresse Commands thirteen English Protestants, who had Quarter given them by your Officers that took them Prisoners, were notwithstanding murdered upon ecoll blood; and that you have resolved to proceed in the same manner for the future; A Relation and Resolution so strange, that the truth thereof might justly be suspected, were it not certified by Letters from that Committee of the 24. of *March* last, to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and by a letter of the 23. of *March* sent to the same Committee by your direction, and subscribed by one *Ralph Goodwin* your Secretary (as I am informed) which doth own and avow the fact. And therefore the two Houses of Parliament being deeply affected with such cruell Massacres com-

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mitted



mitted upon their Protestant Bretheren, whose lives they value as their own, have commanded me to acquaint your Highnesse, That it is evident by undoubted proof, that the Rebels of *Ireland* (what ever they pretended to some on this side the Sea) did really intend by that odious Rebellion, to wrest that Kingdom, for ever, from the Crown of *England*, to the utter deshereson of the King, and His Posterity, and to extirpate the English Nation, and Protestant Religion. And for that purpose have solicited, by their Agents, the bringing over of powerfull Aids from Forraign parts, to assist them in this their intended Conquest; and have set up the Spanish Colours publicly, both at *Wexford* and *Galloway*; have caused their Captains, Officers, and others, to make Oath before their titular Clergy, That they shall not suffer any English, or Protestant to live in that Kingdom, That they prosecuted this horrid designe by murdering, hanging, drowning, burning alive, and starving, within few Moneths in one Province, one hundred fifty four thousand of harmlesse British Protestants, Men, Women, and Children, without distinction of Age, or Sex, without any provocation given, but living securely by them, in a full and settled Peace. That the King first by Proclamation attested by His own Royall Signiture and privie Signet, hath proclaimed them Traytors, and Rebels;

bels; and since that time, both King and Parliament, by four severall Acts of Parliament, have declared and stiled them in the same manner. And further, His Majesty, by Act of Parliament, hath consented, That all Pardons granted to them, or any of them before attainer, shall be void. Now that such bloody barbarous Miscreants, so odious both to God and Men, so obnoxious to Law and Justice (even by the judgement of both sides) coming out of *Ireland* (where they neither did give nor receive Quarter) to burn and lay waste this Kingdom, as they have done that, should after all this be admitted to receive Quarter here, and consequently be made equall in Exchange with the English Nation, and Protestants: The Lords and Commons of the Parliament of *England*, cannot with Religion, Honour, or Justice, in any sort consent unto it: And have commanded me to let your Highnesse, and all other Commanders on that side know, That if hereafter, upon executing the Irish Rebels, in pursuance of that just Ordinance, any unjust pretext shall be made, to murther, in coole blood, any Officer, Souldier, or Seaman in the service of the Parliament, That the two Houses have resolved, and do hereby declare, That for every Officer, Souldier, or Seaman so causelessly massacred, they shall, and must (though with deep sorrow and reluctancy) cause so many of the Prisoners re-



maining in their power to be put to death in the same manner. And therefore do earnestly desire your Highnesse, and all other your inferiour Commanders, to forbear by such prodigious Cruelty, to embase the value of the English Nation, which they are confident will be recented with indignation, even by those English Protestants, who are for the present deceived into Arms against the Protestant Religion, and the Parliament of *England*: To whom they shall be ready to allow Quarter, and equall exchange as before, and for whom they daily pray, That Almighty God would open their eyes, and reduce them into the right way. Sir, this being all I have in command, I take my leave, and remain

*Your humble Servant*

ESSEX.

*Westminster the 4. of  
Aprill 1645.*

Die Jovis 24. Octob. 1644.

**T**He Lords and Commons assembled in the Parliament of England, do declare, That no Quarter shall be given hereafter, to any Irish-man, nor to any Papists whatsoever born in Ireland, which shall be taken in hostility against the Parliament, either upon the Sea, or within this Kingdom, or Dominion of Wales; And therefore do Order and Ordain, That the Lord Generall, Lord Admirall, and all other Officers and Commanders, both by Sea and Land, shall except all Irish-men, and all Papists born in Ireland out of all Capitulations, Agreements, and Compositions hereafter to be made with the Enemy: And shall upon the taking of every such Irish-man, or Papist born in Ireland, as aforesaid, forthwith put every such person to Death. And 'tis further Ordered and Ordained, That the Lord Generall, Lord Admirall, and the Committees of the severall Counties do give speedy notice hereof to all subordinate Officers and Commanders by Sea, and Land respectively, who are hereby required to use their utmost care and circumspection, that this Ordinance be duly executed. And lastly, the Lords and Commons do declare, That every Officer and Commander by Sea or Land that shall be remisse, or negligent in observing the tenor of this Ordinance, shall be reputed a favourer of that bloody Rebellion of Ireland, and shall be liable to such condigne punishment, as the Justice of both Houses of Parliament shall inflict upon him.

Jo. Browne Cler. Parliam.

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*His Highnesse Prince Ruperts Answer  
to the aforesaid LETTER.*

*My Lord,*

**I** Received your Lordships Letter of the 4. of this Moneth on the 11. and cannot but wonder, that it should seem strange to the two Houses, that I should cause those Prisoners which were taken in Arms against His Majesty to be used in the same manner, and by the same measure, as His Majesties good Subjects taken Prisoners in the Act of their duty, are used by those that take them. Those Souldiers of mine, which were barbarously murdered, in cold blood, after Quarter given to them, at *Shrewsbury*, were those who during the time they were in *Ireland* served His Majesty stoutly, constantly, and faithfully against the Rebels of that Kingdom, and after the Cessation there, were by His Majesties Command transported to serve him in this, where they honestly performed the duty of Souldiers; and therefore I were unworthy of the Command I hold under His Majesty



jesty if upon so high a provocation, and so unheard of an Act of injustice, as the putting those poor honest men to death, I had not let the Authors of that Massacre know, that their own men must pay the price of such Acts of Inhumanity, and be used as they use their Brethren : And therefore I caused the like number (to whom Quarter was no otherwise given then to the former) to be put to death in the same manner as had been done at *Shrewsbury*. How the Rebellion in *Ireland* began, and with what circumstances of blood and cruelty it hath been carryed on, (the odiousnesse whereof, and of all other Rebellions is apparent, and all good men must abhorre) is not applicable to this Argument ; (I wish the temper of this Kingdom had been, or yet were such as might be applyed to the composure of that) Your Lordship hath in that Army many Souldiers, who served His Majesty in that Kingdom of *Ireland*, yet to those Souldiers when taken Prisoners, Quarter is given, and observed on this side, the like must be expected from you; And if it should be otherwise, and that Quarter should be denyed to all those who have been Proclaimed Traytors and Rebels, or who by Act of Parliament are such, this War will be much more mercilesse and bloody then it hath been, or then any good man, or true Englishman can desire to see it : I am sure such rigour

shall be prevented by all the interest and power I have. Neither can that threat and menace in your Lordships Letter, of the resolution to use such Prisoners as shall be taken of His Majesties Army for the future, make any other impression in me, then of grief and sadnesse of heart to see such Injustice and Inhumanity, a proceeding contrary to the Laws of Nature and Nations, contrary to the Rules and Customs of Warre in any part of the Christian World, so deliberately and solemnly resolved, declared, and published. If there should be an Ordinance made that there should be no Quarter given to any Souldiers under my Command, and an expectation that those under yours should receive Quarter, would your Lordship expect that I submit to such an Ordinance, This is the case. I have taken Prisoners of those who have taken Arms against His Majesty of all Nations, English, Scotch, Irish, French, Dutch, Walloons, of all Religions & Oppinions that are avowed by Christians, and have always allowed them Quarter, and equall Exchange, (how unequall soever the quarrell & contention is, & what judgement soever the Law hath determined upon such Persons) and shall do so still, hoping that Almighty God will open the eyes of those who have been strangely deceived into Arms against, and to the scandall and destruction of the Protestant Religion, ( in  
which

which all men know I have bin born, & for which they have reason enough to believe I will dye) and the Parliament of *England*, assembled by His Majesties Command, and of which His Majesty is the head, and will recover and reduce those, who out of ambition or malice have made those paths, in which the other have trod, to their Piety towards their Maker, and their Allegiance towards their Sovereign: But if the contrary course shall be held, and any Prisoners under my Command shall be taken, executed, and murthered in cold blood, under what senselesse and unjust pretence soever, for every Officer and Souldier to causelessly and barbarously murthered, I will cause so many of the Prisoners remaining in my Power to be put to death in the same manner, and I doubt not but the blood of those miserable men, who shall so suffer by my Order, as well as of those who shall be butcher'd by that Ordinance your Lordship mentions, shall be required at their hands, who by their cruell examples impose a necessity upon other men to observe the Rules they lay down. And I cannot but expresse a great sense to your Lordship, that since His Majesties gracious offers and importunity for Peace will not be hearkned unto, by these prodigious resolutions expressed in your Lordships Letter, the Warre is like to be so managed, that the English Nation is in danger  
of

of destroying one another, or (which is a kind of  
extirpation) & degenerating into such an animosity  
and cruelty, that all elements of Charity, Com-  
passion, and Brotherly Affection shall be ex-  
tinguished. I hope they whose opinions and re-  
solutions your Lordship hath imparted to me,  
will take these animadversions into serious  
consideration from

MY LORD

Your humble Servant

RUPERT.

FINIS.



